

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 COME-00 EB-11 CIEP-02 OPIC-12 AID-20

EUR-25 NIC-01 /167 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4104

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN EXILE INFLUENCE IN VENEZUELA; IMMINENT RECOGNITION
OF CASTRO REGIME

REF: CARACAS 5115

1. AMONG OTHER OBSERVATIONS MADE YESTERDAY AT CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE DIRECTORS LUNCHEON, JOHN PHELPS CRITICIZED U.S. FIRMS
FOR
THEIR WIDESPREAD USE OF CUBAN MANAGERS RATHER THAN VENEZUELAN.
HE SAID, "SIMPLY BECAUSE THE CUBANS SPEAK ENGLISH AND MANY HAVE
BEEN TRAINED IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN
INSIDE TRACK IN OUR OWN COUNTRY."

2. IT IS SOMEWHAT IRONICAL IN VIEW OF THIS REMARK THAT IT WAS THE
AD PARTY WHICH MOST BENEFITED BY EXILED CUBAN SUPPORT DURING THE
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN WHICH RESULTED IN CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ'S
VICTORY DECEMBER 12. IN FACT, IT WAS THE OPEN FLIRTATION OF CALDERA
WITH CUBA WHICH IMPELLED HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL CUBAN-VENEZUELAN
ENTREPRENEURS, BACKED BY CUBAN MONEY FROM MIAMI, FERVENTLY
TO SUPPORT THE ADECOS.

3. FURTHERMORE, I PERSONALLY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CARLOS ANDRES
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HAS IGNORED THE CUBAN-VENEZUELAN INFLUENCE IN HIS PRESENT ADMINI-

STRATION. DURING THE CAMPAIGN, ONE OF HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL ADVISERS WAS EUGENIO SOLER, FORMER CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, NOW A NATURALIZED VENEZUELAN CITIZEN, WHO IS STILL HIGH UP IN THE HIERARCHY HERE.

4. LAST NIGHT SOLER TOLD ME THAT IMMINENT RECOGNITION OF THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT IN CUBA WAS INEVITABLE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS" PRESIDENT PEREZ WAS INSISTING THAT THERE BE NO HANKY-PANKY IN VENEZUELA ON THE PART OF CASTRO; AND THAT THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN CUBA WOULD BE EXPECTED TO FUNCTION AS A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

5. COMMENT: MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WILL RECOGNIZE CUBA IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.
MCCLINTOCK

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